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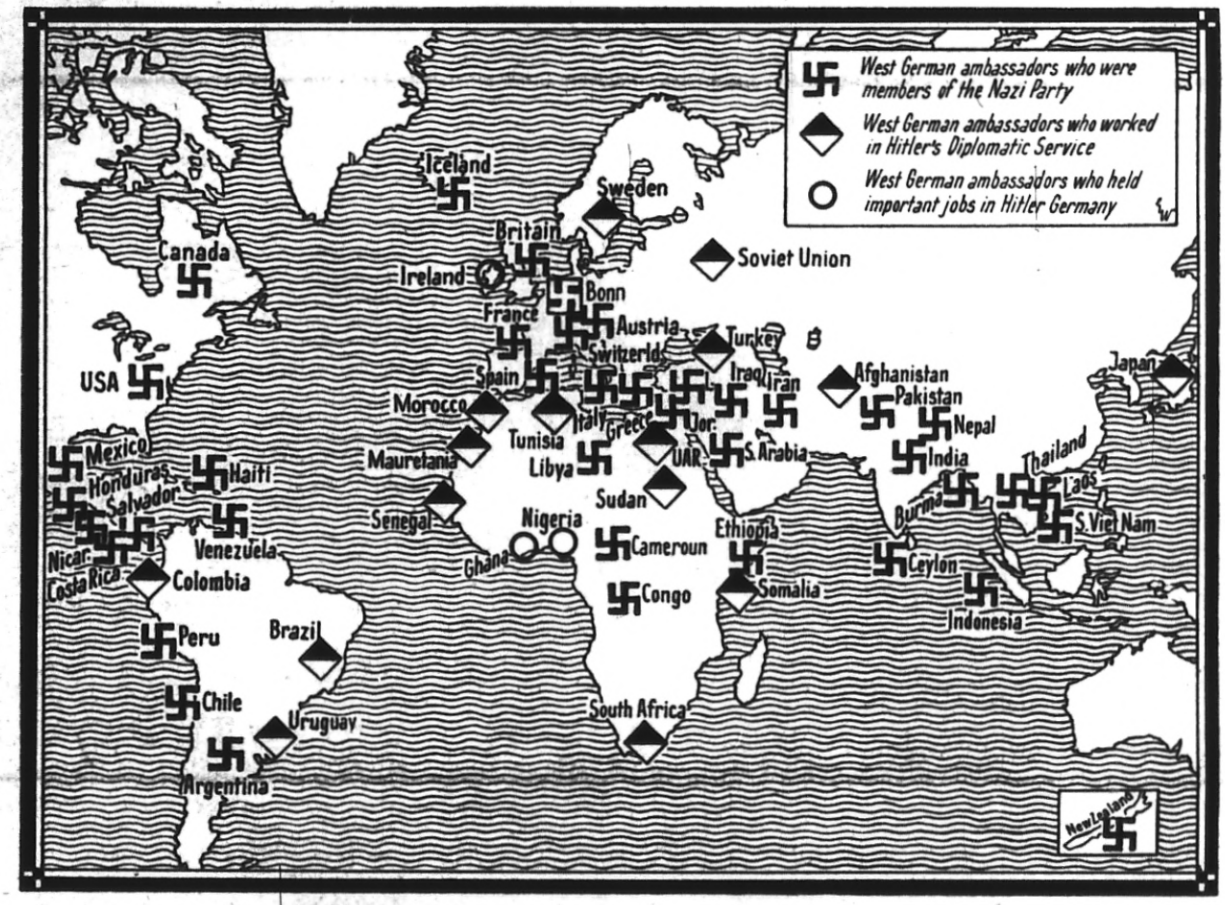
THE PLAGUE



Note: This is a 1962 map, not a 1933 map

In the past few years a plague has spread, almost unnoticed, across the face of the globe — the plague of nazi diplomats who head the West German diplomatic missions in every continent. The swastikas on the map above represent West German ambassadors who have been positively identified as members of Hitler's party. The other signs show West German ambassadors who served Hitler in the Foreign Ministry or elsewhere. A full listing of all these ambassadors is given on the inside pages. The swastika in the West German capital of Bonn marks the West German Foreign Ministry, headed by Gerhard Schroeder, Nazi Party member and Storm Trooper, and almost exclusively staffed by former Hitler supporters. It should be stressed that this map is not complete; many more West German ambassadors served Hitler, but positive identification of their past record is not at present available.

The Startling List of Guilty Men

West German Ambassadors who Served Hitler

AFGHANISTAN

Dr Hans Schmidt-Horix: Was member of Hitler's SS troops (SS, a Nazi Party adjunct, was judged a criminal organisation at Nuremberg trials).

ARGENTINA

Dr Werner Junker: 59, joined diplomatic service in 1927, served in Vienna and China. **Nazi Party Member No. 2,549,901 (1935).** Press Chief of China Division in the Nazi Party's Foreign Organisation. West German diplomat since 1951.

AUSTRALIA

Dr Hans Muehlenfeld: 60, in nazi period a corporation lawyer, expert on business management and company general manager. Headed neo-nazi German Party in West German parliament 1949—1953. Greece refused to accept him as ambassador for reasons, never made public, presumably related to his pre-1945 record.

AUSTRIA

Dr Friedrich Janz: 63, diplomatic service in 1927. Appointed Legation Counsellor First Class 1942. **Candidate Member of the Nazi Party.** West German diplomat since 1959.

BRAZIL

Dr Gebhard Seelos: 60, joined Foreign Office 1925. Vice-Consul in Sydney 1931—35, in Poland 1935—39, Copenhagen 1940—42. West German diplomat since 1953.

BRITAIN

Dr Hasso von Etzdorf: 61, diplomatic service 1928. In Nazi Embassy in Tokyo 1933—34; Secretary to Nazi Foreign Minister von Neurath 1934—36. Foreign office representative with Wehrmacht Supreme Command 1939—44. **Nazi Party Member No. 3,286,356 (1933). Lieutenant Colonel in SA (Storm Troops).** West German diplomat since 1950.

BURMA

Elgar von Randow: 57, diplomatic service 1926. 1941 head of Shanghai branch of nazi embassy in China, running anti-Allied espionage and propaganda (see box). **Very early member of the Nazi Party — No. 5189 (1925).** Awarded War Cross with Swords by Hitler. West German diplomatic service since 1952.

Anti-British Propaganda

"... Starting point of propaganda with sharpest personal attacks against Roosevelt and clique ... Publication of series of articles on members of brain trust, world power plans of Jewish high finance especially in South America, Far East, Dutch East Indies ... In anti-British propaganda stress to be laid on growing hopelessness of England's supply situation, especially in dealing with Dominions. Australia especially favourable target. Intensification of defeatist propaganda through sending agents to Singapore ..."

Secret diplomatic telegram from Elgar von Randow, Shanghai, November 5th 1941 (present Ambassador to Burma).

CAMEROUN

Dr Hennig Thomsen: 56, diplomatic service 1934, worked in Oslo, then in Dublin Embassy as intelligence officer during World War Two. **Candidate Member of the Nazi Party in 1938. Was a Sergeant in the SS.**

CANADA

Herbert Siegfried: 60, joined Foreign Office in 1929. Legation secretary in Cairo 1934, in Foreign Office 1937—43, Consul-General in Geneva from 1943. **Nazi Party Member No. 4,009,260 (1937).** West German diplomat since 1951.

CEYLON

Dr Theodor Auer: 62, diplomatic service in 1926. Appointed Legation Counsellor First Class in 1941. Nazi Party Member No. 3,398,113 (January 1934). West German diplomat since 1953.

CHILE

Dr Hans Strack: 62, diplomatic service 1929, worked in Memel, Chicago (till 1935), then in the Foreign Office, where he headed department dealing with occupied France, Belgium and Netherlands until 1943. In this capacity involved with countless executions and deportations of hostages, Jews and resistance fighters. **Nazi Party Member No. 3,752,096 (October 1936),** Lieutenant in the National Socialist Motorist Corps. West German diplomat since 1959.

COLOMBIA

Dr Anton Mohrmann: 64, diplomatic service 1925, worked in Bucharest, Vatican, Madrid and was Legation Counsellor in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 1940 till 1944. In West German diplomatic service since 1954.

CONGO (Léopoldville)

Dr Kurt Munzel: 56, nazi diplomatic service in 1939. In 1942 appointed to staff of nazi "Plenipotentiary for the Arab Countries". This group's main task was to prepare for "the German advance into the Arab region" and to "exploit the riches of the Arab countries for the Axis war effort". **Nazi Party Member No. 1,494,847 (April 1933).** In West German diplomatic service 1954, serving in Baghdad, Cairo and since 1961 in Congo.

COSTA RICA

Heinrich, Count von Hardenberg: 59, joined nazi foreign service 1936, responsible for the "Memel problem" until Hitler seized this area in 1939. Joined the secret Schwarze Reichswehr (skeleton of later Wehrmacht) in 1923. **Nazi Party Member No. 2,587,251 (April 1933).** West German diplomat since 1951.

ETHIOPIA

Paulus von Stolzmann: 60, joined foreign service 1923, worked in Belgrade, Warsaw, Washington, Chicago Consulate, Eastern Affairs Bureau and Cultural-Political Affairs Bureau. Last position: Head of Liaison Office of Commissioner for Information in Berlin, directly responsible to Ribbentrop. **Nazi Party Member No. 3,286,389 (April 1933).** West German diplomat since 1951.

FRANCE

Herbert Blankenhorn: 57, joined Foreign Office 1929. Washington Embassy 1935—39, Helsinki 1939—40, Berne 1940—43, Protocol Officer in Foreign Office in Berlin 1943—45. De-

ported from Switzerland after the war because of his nazi espionage activities. **Nazi Party Member No. 6,977,147 (December 1936).** West German diplomatic service since 1950. A close friend and adviser of Chancellor Adenauer.

GHANA

Dr Carl Heinz Lueders: Was appointed senior judge on military service in 1942.

GREECE

Dr Wilhelm Melchers: 61, diplomatic service 1927, in Teheran, Haifa, Tokyo, Berne. Confidential agent of nazi Counter-Intelligence and Espionage Service in Middle East during World War Two, awarded War Cross by Hitler (see box). **Nazi Party Member No. 7,077,242 (1939).** In West German foreign service since 1950.

Agents, Sabotage

"Yesterday SS Hauptsturmfuehrer Schubach of Office VI of the Reich Security Main Office and Corvette Captain Schueler of Counter-Intelligence visited me in succession ... It has emerged from the talks that three German action centres have been set up in Iran ... The actions have had success in that the roads of Shiraz and Bushir were temporarily blocked as a result of disorders."

"The S. D. (Security Service) began a number of ventures, in cooperation with Counter-Intelligence II, aimed at landing parachute agents in various parts of Iran. These agents were to ... attack transports and commit sabotage acts against the railways and roads."

From top secret letters to Foreign Ministry from Dr Wilhelm Melchers, September 11th and 16th 1943
(present West German Ambassador to Greece)

HAITI

Kurt Luedde-Neurath: 50, worked in the nazi Foreign Office and then in German Embassy in Tokyo throughout the war. **Nazi Party Member No. 4,745,122 and Lieutenant in the SA (Storm Troops).**

HONDURAS

Hans Joachim Knight von Reichert: Was an official of the Nazi Party group in Italy and liaison officer between Ribbentrop and Mussolini.

ICELAND

Hans-Richard Hirschfeld: 61, joined nazi Foreign Office in 1936, **Nazi Party Member No. 3,715,319 (May 1936).** West German foreign service since 1950.

INDIA (and NEPAL)

Georg Ferdinand von Duckwitz: 68, was Legation Counsellor between 1939 and 1945.

Duckwitz joined the Nazi Party in 1935. He is the only West German diplomat believed to have given some effective help to Jews in occupied Europe during the war.

INDONESIA

Baron Dietrich von Mirbach: 54, joined nazi Foreign Office in 1935, was Ambassador to Roumania in 1939. **Nazi Party Member No. 2,731,405 (May 1933).** In West German foreign service since 1952.

IRAQ

Dr Werner von Bargen: 63, joined diplomatic service 1925, was personal secretary of State Secretary von Buelow 1934—36, at Brussels Embassy 1937—40, then Foreign Office Liaison Officer to Wehrmacht Military Command in Belgium. Later headed "Western Europe" Department in Foreign Office, where he approved the deportation to Auschwitz of 15,000 Jews from Belgium (see box). **He joined the Nazi Party in May 1933 — No. 2,579,492.** In 1952 a West German Parliamentary commission ruled "Bargen is unsuitable for diplomatic service". He returned to diplomatic service in 1954.

IRAN

Baron Dr. Reinhold von Ungern-Sternberg: 53, diplomatic service in 1935. **Nazi Party Member No. 2,594,983 (May 1933). In Storm Troop 33/2 in Berlin (1933).**

IRELAND

Dr Adolph Reifferscheidt: 57, with management of Association of Rhine Industrialists until 1936, then managing director of Cologne Chamber of Commerce. West German diplomatic service since 1955. With Adenauer and Blankenhorn (Ambassador to France) implicated as French espionage agent in Germany after war.

ITALY

Dr Manfred Klaiber: 58, diplomatic service in 1926, nazi diplomat in Pretoria, Batavia, Ankara, Belgrade and Vienna (1943—45). **Joined Nazi Party 1934.** West German state secretary in 1953, foreign service 1957.

JAPAN

Dr Wilhelm Haas: 65, diplomatic service in 1922, in Nazi embassy in Japan till 1937, dropped because wife was not pure Aryan; switched with nazi consent to intelligence work for I. G. Farben in North China (1938—45). West German Foreign Service since 1951.

JORDAN

Conrad von Schubert: 61, diplomatic service in 1925. **Nazi Party Member No. 3,281,493 (July 1933).** West German diplomat since 1955.

LAOS

Dr Hans Bidder: (see Thailand).

LEBANON

Dr Hans Hugo Rupprecht Schwarzmann: 48, diplomatic service in 1940, in Copenhagen, Paris, Casablanca and 1944—45 in nazi Foreign Office. Accomplice in deportation of Jews and French workers. **Nazi Party Member No. 3,151,913 (May 1933).** West German Foreign Office since 1950.

Deportations

"On the basis of the Decree for Jews issued by the military commander on October 28th 1940, about 42,000 men and women have registered. In all, 52,000 to 55,000 Jews may have lived in Belgium, including the children, who are not registered. Of these, 15,000 men, women and children have been deported to the east. Further transports will leave Belgium shortly ... First, the persons to be deported were sent an 'order for labour service' on the 'concentration of Jews'. However, as these orders for labour service were no longer followed after some time due to the rumours about the extermination of the Jews and the like, the Jews were rounded up by raids and individual actions."

Report to Foreign Office by Werner von Bargen, November 11th 1942
(present Ambassador to Iraq)

LIBYA

Dr Ludwig Beye: 61, was Legation Counsellor in nazi Foreign Office. **Nazi Party Member No. 2,531,036 (August 1935).**

MAURETANIA

Dr Walter Reichhold: (see SENEGAL)

"De-Judification"

"... of the 140,000 full Jews originally registered in the Netherlands, the 100,000th Jew has now been removed from the body of the nation. That means that in 11 months the de-Judification of the Netherlands has been almost three-quarters solved."

Report to Berlin by Dr. Ernst-Guenter Mohr, Nazi Legation Counsellor in the Hague on June 25th 1943
(present West German Ambassador to Switzerland)

MEXICO

Dr Kurt-Fritz von Graevenitz: 63, diplomat in 1922, Consul-General in Istanbul 1944. **Nazi Party Member No. 8,735,119 (February 1942).** Wehrmacht officer.

MOROCCO

Dr Herbert Mueller-Roschach: diplomatic service in 1939, Legation Secretary in Paris, Teheran.

NEPAL

Georg Ferdinand von Duckwitz: (see INDIA)

NEW ZEALAND

Dr Herbert Noehring: 61, diplomatic service in 1929. Consul-General in Saloniki 1943—45. **Nazi Party Member No. 4,009,261 (August 1937).** West German Foreign Office since 1952.

NICARAGUA

Dr Hans Wolf Jaeschke: 54, **Storm Trooper corporal**, nazi municipal judge in Hamburg, **joined Nazi Party May 1937.** West German diplomatic service since 1956.

NIGERIA

Dr Harald Count von Posadowsky-Wehner: 51, responsible director (Referent) for Economic Questions in Hermann Goering's Reich Ministry of Aviation from 1941 to 1945.

PAKISTAN

Dr Baron Heinz Julius Hugo Truetzschler von Falkenstein: 59, diplomat in 1934, author of nazi "White Books" justifying aggression by Germany. Secretary of Ribbentrop's "European Committee" which worked out plans for nazi "New Order" in Europe. Planned nazi propaganda in Spain, Portugal. **Nazi Party Member No. 8,183,952 (1940).** West German foreign service since 1949. Ruled "unsuitable for diplomatic employment abroad" by West German Parliamentary Commission in 1952 because of nazi past.

PERU

Dr Heinrich Northe: 53, diplomatic service in 1933. **Nazi Party Member No. 3,604,851.** West German Foreign Office since 1951.

EL SALVADOR

Prince Alexander zu Solms-Braunfels: 58, diplomat in 1938, Legation Secretary in Bucharest 1941. **Nazi Party Member No. 1,440,443 (November 1932). Member of the SS.** Wehrmacht lieutenant 1943—45. West German diplomat since 1951.

SAUDI ARABIA

Oswald, Baron von Richthofen: 53, diplomat since 1935, in Budapest, Vienna, Calcutta. **Nazi Party Member No. 1,440,443 (November 1932). Member of the SS.** Wehrmacht lieutenant 1943—45. West German diplomat since 1951.

SENEGAL (& MAURETANIA)

Dr Walter Reichhold: 57, diplomatic service in 1939. In West German Foreign Office since 1951.

SOMALIA

Dr Wilhelm Kopf: Press attaché in the Nazi Embassy in Ankara, Turkey.

SOUTH AFRICA

Karl Kuno Overbeck: 52, diplomat in 1934, in Budapest and Helsinki. **Member of the Storm Troopers (SA);** cadet-officer.

"Our Fuehrer"

"All those amongst us who once in the past took up arms and fought for our great Germany, all of us out here who stand for the just cause of our fatherland in its present struggle for our national survival will self-sacrificingly follow the call of our Fuehrer ..."

Diplomatic report by Dr Hans Bidder, Chungking, October 18th 1939
(present ambassador to Thailand and Laos)

SOUTH VIET NAM

York Alexander Baron von Wendland: 54, diplomat in 1936, 1938—39 in Brno, Czechoslovakia. **Joined Nazi Party May 1933.** West German Foreign Office since 1951.

SPAIN

Wolfgang Baron von Welck: 60, diplomatic service in 1929, worked in nazi embassies in Moscow, London, Budapest, was Foreign Office representative on important nazi diplomatic commissions in 1940. **Nazi Party Member No. 2,549,805 (August 1935).** West German foreign service since 1950.

SUDAN

Heinrich de Haas: Nazi foreign service during war in Batum, Istanbul, Trabzon. Attained Vice-Consul rank.

SWEDEN

Dr Carl Werkmeister: Became diplomat 1921, in New York, Paris (1939—40), Budapest (1936—39, 1940—44). Implicated in Hungarian pogrom of 13,000 Jewish men, women and children in Ujvidek, occupied Yugoslavia.

SWITZERLAND

Dr Ernst-Guenter Mohr: 57, diplomatic service in 1929, in China, East Asia Division of Foreign Office (1937), Memel, from 1939 in the Hague, Netherlands. After 1944 liaison officer to High Command of the Armed Forces. Played leading role in deportation and murder of Dutch Jews (see box on left). **Nazi Party Member No. 3,500,174 (September 1935).** 1949 in West German Federal Chancellery, soon after in foreign service.

THAILAND (and LAOS)

Dr Hans Bidder: 65, became diplomat 1922, in Paris (1933—35), China (1936—45) where he led nazi activities. Consul-General in Shanghai 1944 (see box on right). **Joined Nazi Party 1941 (candidate since 1935).** West German diplomatic service since 1953.

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TUNISIA

Dr Herbert Richter: In diplomatic service in 1924, worked in Calcutta, Addis Ababa, Colombo, was in Tetuan, Morocco at end of war.

TURKEY

Georg von Broich-Oppert: 64, became diplomat in 1925. Liaison man for nazi underground in Vienna when Dolfuss was murdered. Worked for IG Farben trust (judged criminal at Nuremberg Trials) from 1937 to 1945. West German foreign service in 1951.

USSR

Dr Hans Kroll: 63, became diplomat in 1920, in Berlin Foreign Office 1933–36, Embassy Counsellor in Turkey till 1943, Consul-General in Barcelona till 1945. Active in nazi espionage in Turkey, pressured Turkey to remain friendly with Nazi Germany. West German ambassador to Yugoslavia 1953–55.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Dr Walter Weber: 62, became diplomat in 1934, worked in London, Oslo, Lisbon. In West German foreign service since 1953.

UNITED STATES

Professor Wilhelm Grewe: 50, university lecturer, at Institute for Foreign Political Research, Berlin (1937–38), at nazi University of Politics after March 1940. Wrote articles for semi-official Foreign Office publication glorifying nazi aggression and opposing use of Geneva convention for POWs. **Nazi Party Member No. 3,125,858 (May 1933).** West German foreign service since 1951.

URUGUAY

Dr Otto Eberl: Legation Secretary in Rio de Janeiro until 1937. In 1943 head of Sub-Division IV C (Roumania, Bulgaria) in Foreign Office's Commercial Policy Division. 1944 Legation Counsellor.

VENEZUELA

Dr Carl-August Zapp: 57, became diplomat in 1933. In 1940 with Occupation Staff in occupied Holland. **Nazi Party Member No. 2,717,559 (May 1933).**

NATO

Dr Gebhardt von Walther: Worked in nazi diplomatic service in London, Moscow, Tripolis. Now West German representative to NATO in full ambassador's rank.

OEEC (Organisation for European Economic Cooperation)

Dr Carl Hermann Mueller-Graaf: 58, official in Reich Ministry of Economics and in Foreign Ministry, in West German diplomatic service since 1953. Present job in Paris carries full rank of ambassador.

Data on Diplomats

More dope on West German diplomats and their murky past is given in the book "From Ribbentrop to Adenauer" just published in English by the GDR Foreign Ministry.

We have a few copies for free distribution to readers who are really interested. Rush your orders to:

DGR
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German Democratic Republic

USSR TELLS BONN "LET'S CO-EXIST"

The Soviet Union submitted a memorandum to West Germany on December 27th outlining at great length and in very measured language the ways in which the two countries could co-exist. The memorandum pointed out that West Germany and the Soviet Union are the two largest states in Europe, and that despite their deep differences of opinion they should both be interested in the maintenance of peace.

The Soviet memorandum drew particular attention to the enormous market in the socialist states for the manufactures of West Germany, a market which could be of great advantage to both sides if the West German Government could make itself free of the artificially created war hysteria.

With regard to the West Berlin problem, the memorandum stated that there could be no objection to "the liveliest connections" in the economic, political and cultural field between West Germany and West Berlin, but that these connections must be based upon proper international agreements respecting the rights of the GDR.

If the West German Government was really interested in the re-unification of Germany, then it would have to open direct negotiations with the Government of the German Democratic Republic, the memorandum stated.

"What is the situation today?", the Soviet memorandum asked. "There has been no agreement on a peace settlement, and Europe is split. The former German Reich has been replaced by the German Federal Republic, the German Democratic Republic, and the special territory West Berlin, with regard to which the question of its reconstitution as a free city must be solved in the near future...

"Is the present cold war in the interests of the German people or of the German Federal Republic? No progress can be made in solving problems simply by repeating threats against neighbouring states, and by intentionally maintaining abnormal relations with the Soviet Union.

"The interests of the German people can only be ensured on the basis of healthy relations between the German Federal Republic and the Soviet Union. This would be of profit to the German people, the Soviet people, and to all countries, both socialist and capitalist."

'Standstill' in Central Europe?

"A new development in American official thinking, still tentative but fairly widely held, foresees arrangements among the four powers, tacit or formally declared, that would amount to a kind of standstill agreement in central Europe" the Washington correspondent of "The Times", London, reported on January 8th.

"This line of thinking is of interest because it does imply the recognition not only of the status quo in Berlin, including the wall, but also in the two Germanys... The end-result could be arrangements that West Germany at least has not cared to contemplate in the past.

"This is the background to the brief visit of General Lucius Clay, the President's representative in West Berlin... General Clay, who appears to have identified himself with certain West German viewpoints – an occupational hazard not unknown among some allied representatives in Berlin – obviously resents Washington policies. The tank incidents (in Berlin's Friedrich Strasse, ed.) last October appalled Washington, and there is determination to prevent the present game of tit for tat now being played on the Friedrich Strasse sector crossing from deteriorating into another dangerous confrontation."

The Woman Question

Lively GDR Debate on Equal Rights

A lively and sometimes heated discussion on questions relating to women and their place in GDR society has been filling the pages of newspapers since the statement of the Socialist Unity Party's Political Bureau on December 23rd (briefly reported in GERMAN REPORT of January 5th). Here are excerpts from the statement and some of the subsequent comments:

"Never before did women in Germany have such a chance to help plan the life of society as they do in our workers' and farmers' state. Our people, among them millions of women, have created a state devoted to peace, freedom, humanity and justice, a state which guarantees the equality of women in its constitution, and which provides the basic conditions for developing women's talents and abilities and making their lives easier.

"In the GDR women are doing a fine job, at work, in raising their children and governing our state.

"However, the Political Bureau believes that these great abilities are not being fully utilised. The main reason is that many men in leading positions in the Party, the state, the economy and the trade unions still under-estimate the role to be played by women in socialist society.

"Women who already hold leading positions are often loaded down with far too much work, despite their responsibilities as mothers and housewives. They are often expected to do more than men in the same jobs. Many men in leading positions believe, without saying it openly, that women must 'prove their worth' with special achievements. Instead of helping the women to master their heavier load of work, they invent arguments to prove that it is impossible to give women responsible jobs. They claim that men are more dependable and are not absent so much; some even argue that women have less understanding than men of technical-organisational and economic problems. Such ideas hinder the development of women and therefore of our whole society.

"These problems should be thrashed out publicly, and prejudices should be rapidly overcome. We must be quite clear what equal rights for women really mean. Equal rights mean not only equal pay for equal work (guaranteed by law in the GDR, ed.), but respect for women's work and politeness towards women. That should be a matter of course. But it must also be clearly understood that our social system offers every woman the opportunity to develop her particular abilities and talents and that no-one has the right to disregard this.

"There should be a broad discussion on the subject 'Women - Peace and Socialism' in the trade unions, the newspapers, radio and TV. In this discussion all problems should be discussed frankly and openly and criticisms and suggestions from the women evaluated."

The statement then discussed the need for measures on government, industrial and educational levels for the increased employment of women in leading positions and increased training in technical and scientific fields. Cooperative farms should discuss the appointment of more women to responsible posts.

"The trade unions have a special responsibility in developing a proper attitude towards women's role in socialism. At every level the trade unions should feel fully responsible for the training and promotion of women, and improvements in their daily life.

"Local government bodies, factory and farm managements and trade union committees should discuss with the women how to solve difficulties more rapidly, especially those connected with proper care for the children of working mothers.

"It would be a great help for working women if the factories and offices would organise laundry service, the renting of expensive cleaning equipment and the hiring of household cleaning helpers.

"The Political Bureau of the Socialist Unity Party is convinced that everyone in the GDR will help in solving these problems. Equal rights for women and their advancement at work and in society means strengthening the Republic, winning new forces for peace and socialism and guaranteeing a happy future for women."

* * *

Here are excerpts from letters to the editor of "Neues Deutschland", East Berlin, or from reports in the same newspaper. They give some idea of both the achievements and the problems relating to women in the GDR, where strong traditions of "the dominant male" have ruled for generations.

"The women workers in the Leipzig Cotton Spinning Mill are thinking up methods so that women can get technical training even if they have large families.

"One work team for example made it possible for its member Frau Schubert to spend one day a week studying. The whole group took over her job for that day so that she could complete her training course as foreman. That strengthened her self-confidence, and she will be a very great help for our plant when she has finished her studies."

Lieselotte Kehling,
Leipzig Cotton Spinning Mill

*

"I come from a tiny village in Mecklenburg. In 1952 we started a

Puppets & Moppets

A congress of puppeteers, production of radioactive isotopes and assorted stories on life in the GDR may be found in the February issue of GDR Review, a lively, colourful illustrated magazine published in Dresden.

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German Democratic Republic.

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cooperative farm. Since then we have moved forwards steadily. But the farm chairman had no consideration for us women. We came to him and asked for a kindergarten. 'Kindergarten? When we were kids we sat at the side of the field and waited till our parents finished work. You can do the same.' But we did not give up. Despite difficult conditions we started a kindergarten; and in the meantime we have straightened out our chairman."

Lilly Birkhuhn,
Kavelstorf Cooperative Farm

•

"Our women who grew up under socialism don't hold out too long at home if they quit work when they marry. In most cases they usually are glad to start work again — for example after stopping for a period because of the children — and are happier and more interested than before getting married because they now feel they are helping out our country purely voluntarily. And it is just these women who should be trained to take on leading positions in management.

"But then comes the big 'if and when' — the husband. For young married couples it is not such a big problem to arrange the household work to fit in with the job. It is more complicated in the older marriages. In most cases it is the husband who usually hampers the woman the most. Not that he's against his wife taking a job; no, he is probably proud of her.

"But how does the 'Lord and master' usually act? He wants to come to a cosy apartment, sit down in his armchair and turn on the TV or read a book. Then his wife comes home; she's done her shopping on the way and her work begins at once in the kitchen. The children set the table, the oldest one fetches coal from the cellar, empties the garbage, all the jobs are divided up. But if dear Daddy is asked to help, he talks about his 'hard day at the job'.

"But if we mention that the children also put in their day's work at school or apprenticeship, and that we too worked hard, then that is another story completely. And in such cases, who is left to look through the school homework, wash, darn socks and do the ironing?"

Ilse Graefe, Rostock

•

"After I had completed my apprenticeship as a watchmaker in the 'Klement Gottwald' Watch Factory in Ruhla, the plant delegated me to study at Karl Marx University in Leipzig. In November 1960 I returned to the plant as certified economist. I told myself that I would now prove to my colleagues that all that money they had spent for my education had not been in vain.

"But things turned out quite differently. 'First you should get to know the plant thoroughly', I was told, and so I went through several different departments. Each department head gave me jobs to do that any first year apprentice could have managed.

"Things went on like that till just before Christmas. Then I blew up. After all, I had been back in the plant over a year. I often had to ask myself: Does one have to study for four years in order to work as little more than a messenger girl? A big argument resulted. The labour manager was indignant that I told him off. He objected to my rejecting such jobs.

"Our managers often say that they would be glad to employ women in leading jobs, but that the women don't want such jobs. Actually, it's the other way around. Most women are interested enough. They are not afraid of taking on the responsibility. But we wish our colleagues in management would have the proper consideration for us and give us jobs corresponding to our qualification."

Christa Wendel, Brotterode

•

"I come from the Electrical Apparatus Works in Berlin-Treptow. First I was a worker there and now I am assistant manager of the measurement instrument factory. Our plant is the largest in East Berlin, with over 8000 employees, over 50% of whom are women.

•

"In order to prepare women for jobs as foremen and in management, a course leading to a high school diploma was organised. At first no women registered for the course at all. Then our Women's Committee was able to get a large number of women to start the course. The committee discovered that no-one had talked with the women, but had only said that the women did not want the course. It is not easy to learn mathematics, physics and chemistry, and lots of energy is needed to keep up till the end. The trade union leaders and the management should help more so that the women taking this course hold out till the end without dropping out with a feeling of inferiority."

Ruth Petzarka, Berlin

TWO-MINUTE NEWS SUMMARY

West German police banned an issue of the weekly illustrated "Quick" which revealed details of the deep nuclear shelter in a railway tunnel being prepared near Bonn for Chancellor Adenauer and top government officials.

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Dr Franz Krahl, London correspondent of "Neues Deutschland", biggest newspaper in the GDR, was expelled from Britain on January 10th. British Foreign Office officials stated that no exception had been taken to Dr Krahl's journalistic activities: the expulsion was the result of a NATO decision. It was generally assumed in London that the step had been taken under strong West German pressure. Dr Krahl spent the war years in Britain as a refugee; all his relatives were killed by the nazis.

•

British Premier Harold Macmillan promised on January 9th to take a tougher line on the West Berlin question in return for a West German promise to buy more British arms for its nazi-officered Bundeswehr. The agreement was reached at a meeting between Macmillan and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer in Bonn. Commenting on the meeting on January 11th, "The Times", London stated: "Perhaps if Dr Adenauer and Mr Macmillan had inquired more deeply into each other's views on Berlin they would not have found themselves as much at agreement as the words of yesterday's official statement suggested. (West) German and British conceptions differ substantially."

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The German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union concluded an agreement on December 28th for closer cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. There will be greatly increased cooperation between the two states in such fields as nuclear physics, reactor techniques, the manufacture of radio-active isotopes and their use in industry, medicine and science.

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The West German Foreign Ministry plans a big propaganda campaign in the United States to prove that there are no parallels between Hitler Germany and Adenauer Germany, the West German newspaper "Bonner Rundschau" reported on January 4th. "The American attitude towards West Germany has got considerably worse in the past few weeks", the newspaper reported.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

So what will the apologists for the West German regime say about the map on the front page of this issue, and our pages of biographical details on nazi diplomats now in the Bonn foreign service?

First of all, they will go through it with a magnifying glass, looking for any possible minor errors; if there is an Ambassador Hanns Schmidt, and we have spelt the name Hans Schmitt, then they will howl that the whole thing has been shown up as another baseless Red Plot to denigrate the lily-white democracy of West Germany.

It Happened

I am not just imagining this reaction, for something very similar happened only a week or two ago. On December 12th, the Soviet Union asked for the arrest of West German General Adolf Heusinger as a war criminal. The arrest demand was accompanied by 150 pages of evidence, mainly photostats of original nazi documents showing Heusinger's role in World War Two. The West German propagandists could not deny the genuine nature of these documents. Instead they latched onto the fact that a Moscow newspaper had illustrated an article about Heusinger's crimes with a photo allegedly showing Wehrmacht troops destroying a Soviet village. In fact the photo, taken out of the archives, showed Japanese troops destroying a Chinese village. It was admittedly a nasty slip on the part of the newspaper, but West German newspapers ran stories implying that since this photo had been a phoney, then the charges against Heusinger were baseless.

Second Line

But to get back to the diplomats. The second line of defence which we may expect the Bonn propaganda machine to put up is likely to run like this: "It is true that some of our ambassadors were in the Nazi Party, but of course they were forced to join, and anyway they were all really members of the resistance movement".

This is a pretty corny line, but it still seems to go over in some circles, so it may be worth answering. First of all, there was not even the slightest pressure on members of the German diplomatic service to join the Nazi Party until 1937, and most of the persons named joined before that date; and secondly most of the diplomats named were serving abroad, outside the Gestapo's sphere of influence, and could have resigned with no trouble if they had found Hitlerism abhorrent. On the story of the "resistance record" it is worth recalling that in the closing weeks of the war even Gestapo boss Heinrich Himmler started to build himself up as an active resister.

But to be perfectly fair, there are one or two men on the list who have some claims to have done something at least against Hitler. I am thinking in particular of Ambassador Georg von Duckwitz, who disagreed with Hitler's anti-Semitic policy and who, according to reports which appear to be genuine, gave some help to Jews escaping from occupied Denmark. After giving this help, however, he went right on serving Hitler to the bitter end. A few others claim to have played some part in the vague anti-Hitler plotting in 1944, when the more clear-sighted of the German militarists realised that Hitler had lost the war, and tried to save what they could from the ruins.

However, if any of the Bonn diplomats named in this issue feel that we are unfairly blackening their names, I hereby invite them to tell their side of the story. GERMAN REPORT will be glad to find space for their corrections of any factual errors we may conceivably have made.

The third line of defence likely to be put up by the Bonn propagandists is that it is impossible to build up a diplomatic service without people with experience.

Chancellor Adenauer himself put this argument very plainly nearly ten years ago. Speaking in the West German Parliament on October 22nd 1952 he stated: "One cannot build up a Foreign Ministry without staffing the leading positions with persons with past experience ... It is about time that we put a stop to this prying about for nazis because you can be sure that if we once get started, nobody knows where it will end." (The last part of this classic pronouncement is one of the truest statements that Adenauer has ever made.)

But of course it is possible to build up a foreign service in Germany without staffing it with nazis; and this is precisely what the German Democratic Republic has done. The GDR Foreign Minister, Dr Lothar Bolz, and all his five deputies, for a start, have outstanding anti-fascist records. All of them hold the medal "Fighter Against Fascism" which is only awarded to people who have an unsullied record of resistance. Among the GDR ambassadors and heads of foreign missions, 12 served long terms in Hitler's prisons and concentration camps, and 14 were forced to emigrate and fought the nazis from outside Germany. Not one served in Ribbentrop's foreign office.

Who has been responsible for the enormous re-nazification of the West German Foreign Ministry, shown on our map and in the biographies? Basically the man behind this comeback is none other than Dr Hans Globke, Dr Adenauer's State Secretary, the man who drafted Hitler's anti-Semitic legislation. This is what the West German newspaper "Die Welt" said about Globke's powers on January 15th:

"He controls the complete personnel policy of the Federal Republic ... and he is the man in command of the secret service." With a man like that at the centre of the web, nothing that happens in West Germany is really surprising.

Sick

To end this column on a slightly lighter note, even if it is rather sick humour, let me present you with this gem from the "New York World-Telegram", November 22nd 1961: "The Canadian Army has issued these orders telling a soldier what to do if he sees a nuclear bomb explode: 'The soldier will inform his immediate superior and tell him what has occurred. If a bomb goes off in duty hours a certain number will be called. If it is during off-duty hours, an alternate number will be called. The soldier will then fill out the appropriate form and dispatch it forthwith to headquarters'."

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